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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, PCS/PLG/LB

STATINTL ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : The Matter of the Remaining Agency Files
Concerned With the Assassination of President
Kennedy and Pending FOIA Requests Concerning
These Records

1. Per our discussion of several days ago, there is a collection of Agency records concerned with the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination which have not been dealt with, in response to a number of varied, FOIA requests. Initially, when the Agency became involved in litigation with Plaintiff Fensterwald, the responsibility for reviewing the Agency's records and making the initial FOIA determinations was delegated by mutual agreement to OGC, namely the undersigned. The litigation is now closed. It did not encompass all of the Kennedy records, consequently, approximately 300 documents remain to be reviewed for possible release to a number of FOIA requestors. Almost all of the remaining documents are DDO documents. There are also a number of documents referred to the Agency by the FBI, approximately one file drawer, to be dealt with and the matter of referring FBI documents in CIA files must also be dealt with. In addition to these collections of documents there are a number of outstanding FOIA requests for individual documents or collection of documents which requestors have become aware of either as a result of the House Committee report on assassination or as a result of the Agency's earlier FOIA releases.

2. In brief then, considerable work remains to be done to complete the Agency's actions in response to outstanding FOIA requests. This office has neither the capacity nor the authority to deal with the remaining records and FOIA requests. I am bringing this to your attention to insure that the Agency can avoid being found in an embarrassing situation for lack of attention to this particular problem.

3. I currently have a sizeable collection of documents. They are the copies of the documents already processed and released in the FOIA litigation. I also have several sets of documents which remain to be processed, thus much of the mechanical work is already accomplished. I shall turn over this material to whoever you designate. Since this material constitutes the equivalent of several safe drawers, they should probably come prepared with a cart.

4. From my experience, the remaining FOIA determinations will be greatly facilitated if the Agency can involve an individual who has some substantive expertise regarding the Kennedy files. Anyone without a working familiarity with the substance of the files would be severely handicapped and is likely to require a much larger expenditure of time. I would recommend for your consideration [REDACTED] a retired CI staffer, who is currently working under contract to the DDA/ISS/CRD doing declassification reviews on OSS files. [REDACTED] is currently accessible and, because of his recent stint in liaison with the House Committee on Assassinations, is probably one of the more knowledgeable persons available. I shall try to be available to assist whoever is assigned responsibility for this particular problem.

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P.S. Since writing the above, we have been advised that Professor Blakey, former Chief of Staff of the House Committee on Assassinations, is submitting a manuscript for a book for CIA clearance on his work for the Committee. Professor Blakey obviously recalls the terms of his secrecy agreement as well as the [REDACTED] decision. The Agency and principally the DDO will have to review the manuscript probably before the end of this month. [REDACTED] would seem ideally suited to assist in that task also.

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cc: C/ISS/DDA